



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

South Carolina Oil and Gas Exploration, Drilling, Transportation and Production Act

Fact Sheet

History

1977

Act to regulate the exploration for, drilling for, transportation of and production of oil and gas and their products and to provide penalties for violations.

1984

Act amended to establish ownership of geothermal resources and to regulate use of such resources.

1989

Act amended to define sanitary landfills and to regulate the exploration, production, transportation of in and related to sanitary landfills.

1993

Act amended to change the regulatory authority from the South Carolina Water Resources Commission to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control.

Authority

DHEC's initial authority under this act was to regulate pollution prevention from storage facilities or terminals under Article 3 of the Act. Water Resources Commission had the authority to regulate the exploration, production and transportation of oil and gas.

Applicability

- The South Carolina Oil and Gas Exploration, Drilling, Transportation and Production Act and Regulations regulate the exploration, drilling, production and transportation and storage of oil and gas and their products. DHEC's initial authority under this act was to regulate pollution prevention from terminal facilities.
- This Act and Regulations apply to all lands however owned, including the submerged lands, both inland and offshore, tidelands and wetlands located within the 3 nautical mile jurisdictional limits of the State and any lands owned or administered by any government or any agency or political subdivision thereof, over which the State, under its police power has jurisdiction.

- This Act and Regulations give DHEC authority to:
 - 1) Prevent waste of oil and gas and their products;
 - 2) Protect correlative rights;
 - 3) Prevent pollution of water air and land by oil or gas;
 - 4) Otherwise administer and enforce this Act and regulations.

Current Activities

- Register terminal facilities, conduct inspections of terminal facilities, collect fees from terminal facilities. There are approximately 20 registered terminals in South Carolina.
- Issue permits at Sanitary Landfills for methane extraction, production and transportation.

Potential Future Activities

- Exploration permits, well drilling permits, transportation (pipeline) permits, terminal registrations and inspections.